

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 41-73 are pending in the application, with 41, 43, 53 and 63 being the independent claims. Claims 1-40 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Tracy-Gene G. Durkin
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,831

Date: March 19, 2004

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600
239736